



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS - ONE SENTENCED AND ONE GUILTY PLEA

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Christopher A. King**, 23, Kansas City, Kansas, was sentenced on July 7, 2003, by U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia to **twenty-seven months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that King entered a guilty plea on April 21, 2003, to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Melgren stated that King admitted at his plea that on November 21, 2002, during a drug investigation, King was stopped by the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department on North 3rd Street, Kansas City, Kansas, and officers found a loaded handgun in his waistband. King further admitted that he had previously been convicted in Wyandotte County, Kansas, of a felony in 1998.

In an unrelated case, **Daniel L. Estell**, 25, Kansas City, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on July 7, 2003, before U.S. District Judge Kathryn H. Vratil to one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On March 17, 2003, Kansas City, Kansas police officers were investigating a report of an individual sleeping in a vacant apartment on Birch Street in Kansas City, Kansas, and found Estell sleeping on the floor. When the officers awakened Estell they found that he was lying on a loaded handgun. After a brief struggle, Estell was arrested. When Estelle was searched, officers found a small amount of crack cocaine and marijuana. Estell admitted at his plea that on March 17, 2003, he possessed a handgun and that he was previously convicted in Wyandotte County, Kansas, in 1996 of a felony.

Estell faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 29, 2003.

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“Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, a national initiative to reduce gun violence in our communities, the U.S. Attorney’s office, in partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and local law enforcement agencies, will continue to aggressively prosecute those who illegal possess firearms,” Melgren said.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives in these investigations and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in these prosecutions.